

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559 887001/P17697

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. New claims and claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection. No new matter has been added.

Double Patenting

The double patenting rejection is hereby respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding, in order to expedite the allowance of the current application, enclosed herewith is a duly executed terminal disclaimer.

35 USC § 103

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ikeda or Eynon or Shirasaki in view of Kalk. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "placing mechanically clamping a pellicle within an outer pellicle frame and an inner pellicle frame; heating the pellicle, the outer pellicle frame, and the inner pellicle frame above a glass transition temperature of the pellicle and below a melting temperature of the pellicle to attach the pellicle to at least one of the outer pellicle frame and the inner pellicle frame; placing a polymer

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layer between a reticle and a selected one of the outer pellicle frame and the inner pellicle frame; and heating the polymer layer to a pre-determined temperature to attach the reticle to the selected pellicle frame" (for support, see, *inter alia*, specification pars. 28-30).

None of the cited references, whether considered singly or in combination, suggest or otherwise the subject matter recited in claim 1. In particular, the references do not teach heating the pellicle, the outer pellicle frame, and the inner pellicle frame above a glass transition temperature of the pellicle and below a melting temperature of the pellicle to attach the pellicle to at least one of the outer pellicle frame and the inner pellicle frame.

Kalk relates to mounting a pellicle assembly on a photomask by bringing an adhesive material formed on a surface of a frame associated with the pellicle assembly in contact with the photomask (*see, inter alia*, Kalk abstract). Therefore, Kalk relates to the attachment of a pellicle assembly to a reticle and fails to disclose a heating of a pellicle, and outer pellicle frame, and an inner pellicle frame above a glass transition temperature but below a melting temperature of the pellicle. Additionally, each of Ikeda, Eynon, and Shirasaki address coupling a frame member to a reticle. These references do not disclose or otherwise suggest heat treating a pellicle

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within inner and outer frames as recited in claim 1. Hence, the skilled artisan would not have resulted in the subject matter recited in claim 1 by combining one or more of Ikeda, Enyon, and Shirasaki with Kalk.

Moreover, none of the references suggest having an inner pellicle frame that has a lower coefficient of thermal expansion than the outer pellicle frame and the polymer layer as recited in claim 19 or an inner pellicle frame that has a lower coefficient of thermal expansion than the polymer layer and the same coefficient of thermal expansion as the outer pellicle frame as recited in claim 10.

Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 18-20 should be allowable.

Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any

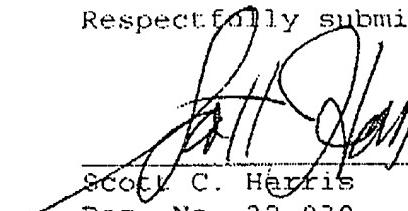
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claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please apply any charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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